

that small instruments have been the means by which a large amount of useful work has been done in this field of observation. It is also an unavoidable conclusion that many of the mistakes in planetary work have been due to inadequate power and light in the appliances used. Possibly during the next few months some of the existing discordances may be cleared up, and some new facts learnt concerning this the most beautiful planet of our system.

There was an interesting occultation of Saturn by the moon on June 13, but at Bristol clouds interfered with observation. At Yeovil, Somerset, the Rev. T. E. R. Phillips watched the phenomenon with a 3-inch refractor. There will occur another event of this kind on September 3 next, when the planet will disappear at 7h. 16m. and reappear at 8h. 11m. p.m. Occultations of Saturn are somewhat rare, the last, prior to that of June 13, occurring twelve years ago, viz. on October 1, 1888.

The planet may now be studied with advantage from southern observatories, where his altitude will be considerable and conduce to that excellent definition which is so necessary for the detection of faint and delicate markings. As every opposition it seems necessary that the number and arrangement of the various belts should be noted. A dark polar cap should be looked for, and any irregular appearances, such as dark and light spots on the dusky belts or intervening zones, should be carefully recorded. It is unfortunate that the results obtained in previous years are not sufficiently accordant to be of much service. In some cases where one observer has drawn one or two belts, another, equally experienced and with more powerful means, has represented seven or eight. Certain observers see the belts and zones mottled with spots, while others describe the aspect as perfectly smooth and quite devoid of all such irregularities. The evidence is, in fact, so conflicting that new and thoroughly trustworthy observations are greatly needed to set at rest the actual character of the details visible on this exceedingly attractive object. W. F. DENNING.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD.—On April 27, 1899, an anonymous gift of 5000*l.* was made towards the building of a pathological laboratory. The donor now allows his name to be made known, and a decree will consequently be proposed on July 7, that the thanks of the University be conveyed to Ewan Richards Frazer, B.M., Balliol College, for his munificent donation to the pathological laboratory.

CAMBRIDGE.—The annual report of the Cambridge Observatory appears in the *Reporter* for June 30. It includes an account of valuable work done with the Newall telescope, and of the steps taken to bring to perfection the Sheepshanks photographic equatorial. The binary character of a Aurigæ was announced as discovered at the Observatory two days before the arrival of Prof. Campbell's independent publication from the Lick Observatory.

Scholarships, or exhibitions, in natural science have been awarded at the following Colleges thus :

Peterhouse : Lee.

Gonville and Caius : Cleminson, Burne, Garnsey, Lock, Macfie, Rittenberg, Thornton.

The Hopkins Prize for the period 1894-97 has been awarded to Mr. J. Larmor, F.R.S., of St. John's College, for his investigations on the Physics of the Aether and other valuable contributions to mathematical physics.

Mr. William Ritchie Sorley, formerly Fellow of Trinity College, has been chosen Knightsbridge Professor of Moral Philosophy in the place of Dr. Henry Sidgwick, who has resigned in consequence of ill health.

PROF. SIMON NEWCOMB has had the degree of doctor of laws conferred upon him by the University of Toronto.

PROF. J. H. POYNTING, F.R.S., has been elected Dean of the Faculty of Science of the University of Birmingham.

THE honour of knighthood has been bestowed upon Dr. G. Hare Philipson, president of the University of Durham College of Medicine, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

PROF. J. R. CAMPBELL, head of the Agricultural Department of Yorkshire College, has been appointed under-secretary to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland.

THE honorary degree of D.Sc. has been conferred by the University of Oxford upon Prof. J. Mark Baldwin, of Princeton University, New Jersey, U.S.A. The new doctor is professor of psychology at Princeton, and editor of the *Psychological Review*.

HONORARY degrees were on Saturday last conferred by the Victoria University upon Lord Rayleigh, Sir William Huggins, Sir W. C. Roberts-Austen, Sir William Abney, Dr. T. E. Thorpe, Prof. J. Dewar, Prof. A. R. Forsyth, Mr. R. T. Glazebrook, Prof. Pickering, Prof. J. J. Thomson, and Mr. Henry Wilde.

A GRANT of 58*l.* from the Earl of Moray Endowment has been made by the Edinburgh University Court to Dr. J. H. Milroy for purposes of research. At a recent meeting of the Court it was announced that the late Prof. Sir D. MacLagan had bequeathed a marble bust of himself to the University, and that Miss E. A. Ormerod had presented six large volumes of drawings, chiefly by her father, to the library.

THE Drapers' Company offer for competition eight scholarships tenable at the day classes of the East London Technical College in chemistry, physics and engineering. The scholarships are of the value of 25*l.*, 10*l.* being paid during the first year and 15*l.* during the second year. They also carry with them free tuition. Particulars may be obtained from the Director of Studies, East London Technical College, People's Palace, E.

THE annual meeting terminating the session of the department of engineering in connection with University College, Liverpool, took place on Thursday last, when the William Rathbone Medal and the Rathbone Prizes were distributed by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool. The report, which was of a highly satisfactory character, was read by Prof. Hele-Shaw, after which an address was delivered by Prof. John Perry, F.R.S., upon the value of a thorough scientific education to the engineer.

THE following is a list of the members of the new Board of Education Consultative Committee :—Rt. Hon. Arthur Herbert Dyke Acland, Sir William Reynell Anson, Bart., M.P., Prof. Henry Armstrong, Mrs. Sophie Bryant, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart Dyke, Bart., M.P., Sir Michael Foster, K.C.B., M.P., Mr. James Gow, Litt.D., Mr. Ernest Gray, M.P., Mr. Henry Hobhouse, M.P., Mr. Arthur Charles Humphreys-Owen, M.P., Sir Richard Claverhouse Jebb, M.P., Hon. and Rev. Edward Lyttelton, Very Rev. Edward Craigh Maclure, D.D., Dean of Manchester, Miss Lydia Manley, the Venerable Ernest Grey Sandford, Archdeacon of Exeter, Mrs. Eleanor Mildred Sidgwick, Prof. Bertram Coghill Alan Windle, M.D., Rev. David James Waller, D.D. The draft Order in Council, giving particulars of the duties, &c., of the Committee, has been issued as a Parliamentary paper.

FURTHER munificent gifts for the furtherance of education in the United States are announced in *Science* and are as follows:—The sum of 125,000 dollars has been left to Harvard University by the late Edmund Dwight. The bequest will come into the hands of the University authorities after the death of certain persons who receive the income during their lifetime. The amount (100,000 dollars) promised by Mr. Rockefeller to Denison University, on condition that 150,000 dollars additional be raised before July, has now been claimed, the sum named having been subscribed. The sum of 50,000 dollars has been given to Colorado College by Mr. W. S. Stratton; Mr. M. K. Jesup has given 25,000 dollars to Princeton University, and Lombard College in Galesburg, Ill., benefits in a like degree by the gift of Mr. W. G. Waterman; while 10,000 dollars have been subscribed by Messrs. Phelps, Dodge and Co. for the endowment of the department of mining and metallurgy at Columbia University. In addition to the foregoing it is announced that Mr. L. C. Smith will build and equip a civil engineering building in connection with Syracuse University.

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

##### LONDON.

Royal Society, June 14.—“The Nature and Origin of the Poison of *Lotus Arabicus*.” By Wyndham R. Dunstan, F.R.S., Sec.C.S., Director of the Scientific Department of the Imperial Institute, and T. A. Henry, B.Sc.Lond.

*Lotus Arabicus* is a small leguminous plant resembling a vetch, indigenous to Egypt and Northern Africa. It grows abundantly in Nubia, and is especially noticeable in the bed of the Nile from